United Nations A/53/982

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 122 (b)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 55th, 56th, 59th and 62nd meetings, on 10, 11, 21 and 27 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.55, 56, 59 and 62).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (A/53/797 and A/53/819) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/895 and Add.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58

4. At the 59th meeting, on 21 May, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on items 122 (a) and (b), informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations with a view to submitting a draft resolution under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

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5. At the same meeting, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/53/L.58).

6. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the representative of the United States of America made a statement and requested that a single vote be taken on the first preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the first preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3, 10, and 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 by a recorded vote of 84 to 2, with 46 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested that a recorded vote be taken on draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58 as a whole.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.58, as a whole, by a recorded vote of 132 to 2, with 2 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab

Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Uzbekistan.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Lebanon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, Australia (on behalf also of Canada and New Zealand), Israel, Japan and Uzbekistan.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997 and 52/237 of 26 June 1998,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was Security Council resolution 1223 (1999) of 28 January 1999,

Recalling its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and the subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/237,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

[1] A/53/797 and A/53/819.

[2] A/53/895 and Add.1.

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 1999, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 119,646,994 United States dollars, representing 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 30 June 1999, notes that some 12 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, particularly those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Express its deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997 and 52/237 of 26 June 1998;

3. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233 and 52/237;

4. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

6. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

[3] A/53/895/Add.1.

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue his efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

10. *Decides* to revise the amount of the commitment authority granted in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 51/233 in connection with the costs resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996 and, correspondingly, the amount to be borne by Israel as decided in paragraph 8 of the same resolution, from 1,773,618 United States dollars to 1,284,633 dollars;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 51/233 and paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 52/237, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,284,633 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

12. *Takes note* of the additional requirements of 57,600 dollar gross (844,000 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, which will be covered by the liquidation of obligations no longer required for the same period;

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 148,904,683 dollars gross (144,875,283 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, inclusive of the amount of 7,407,886 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 1,452,597 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi;

14. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 12,397,474 dollars gross (12,061,690 dollars net) for the period from 1 to 31 July 1999 among Member States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1999 and 2000, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

15. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 335,784 dollars approved for the period from 1 to 31 July 1999;

16. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 136,372,209 dollars gross (132,678,593 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000, at a monthly rate of 12,397,474 dollars gross (12,061,690 dollars net) in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1999 and 2000 as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 July 1999;

17. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund

of the estimated staff assessment income of 3,693,616 dollars approved for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000;

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".